

administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module;

saving the configured file containing the updated information to the sales-related database; and

uploading the sales-related database to a web-based database using the administrative tool.

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2. (Amended) A system for performing functions relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers connected with a sales-related database comprising:

user-interactive means for receiving updated information for the sales-related database in a file configured in a predetermined format;

means for saving the configured file containing the updated information to the sales-related database; and

means for uploading the sales-related database to a web-based database using an administrative tool, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool.

4. (Amended) A system for performing functions relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers connected with a sales-related database comprising:

a user-interactive administrative tool for providing updated information to a sales-related database, the administrative tool having at least one of:

a user login module for restricting access to the system;

a database access module for accessing data stored in the sales-related database and for reading one or more configured files; and

a file upload module for uploading data to the sales-related database and the system.

5. (Amended) The system of claim 4 further comprising a report building module for presenting data in one or more predetermined formats, for generating one or more reports, and for tracking access and navigation through the sales database.

6. (Amended) The system of claim 4 further comprising a broker operations module for updating broker information in the sales related database, the broker operations module further comprising a broker profile module for accessing at least one broker profile.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the file upload module further comprises an HTTP servlet module for generating and presenting the user with preconfigured forms and for receiving one or more information updates provided by the user in the preconfigured forms.

8. (Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein the file upload module further comprises a file upload servlet module having a plurality of servlets for transmitting the information updates received in a preconfigured format to the database access module to be read as a configured file and to update the data stored in the sales-related database.

9. (Amended) A process for performing functions relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers connected with a sales-related database comprising the steps of:

receiving login information from a client system;

determining if the login information is valid;

transmitting an administrative functions home page to the client system if the login information is valid, the administrative functions home page being associated with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module.;

receiving a function link selection from the client system, the function link selection being made by a user interacting with the administrative functions home page;

determining which function link was selected;

displaying an administrative function screen corresponding to the function link selected;

receiving updated information in a predetermined format, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with the administrative tool; and

updating the sales-related database to store the received updated information.

11. (Amended) The process of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a broker administrative function link selection;

determining which broker administrative function link was selected;

deleting a selected broker if a delete link was selected; and

displaying at least one broker information screen if a delete link was not selected wherein the step of receiving updated information includes a sub-step of receiving updated information entered in at least one field in the at least one broker information screen.

12. (Amended) The process of claim 11 wherein the at least one broker information screen includes at least one of a broker detail screen, a broker contact information screen and a broker public key loading screen for adding a new broker key ring filed to a public ring list for encryption purposes.

19. (Amended) A system of performing administrative functions connected with a sales-related database comprising:

means for receiving login information from a client system;

means for determining if the login information is valid;

means for transmitting an administrative functions home page to the client system if the login information is valid;

means for receiving a function link selection from the client system;

means for determining which function link was selected;

means for displaying an administrative function screen corresponding to the function link selected;

means for receiving updated information in a predetermined format, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module; and

means for updating the sales-related database to store the updated information.

20. (Amended) A process for updating information relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers in a sales-related database comprising the steps of:

receiving an access request;

determining if the access request is valid;

receiving updated information if the access request is valid, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module;

verifying the received updated information; and

replicating the sales-related database.

22. (Amended) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a process for integrating one or more

updates relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers into a sales-related database over a network, wherein the integrating process comprises the steps of:

receiving updated information for the sales-related database in a file configured in a predetermined format, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module;

saving the configured file containing the updated information to the sales-related database; and

uploading the sales-related database to a web-based database using an administrative tool.

23. (Amended) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a process for integrating one or more updates relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers into a sales-related database over a network, wherein the integrating process comprises the steps of:

receiving login information from a client system;

determining if the login information is valid;

transmitting an administrative functions home page to the client system if the login information is valid;

receiving a function link selection from the client system;

determining which function link was selected;

displaying an administrative function screen corresponding to the function link selected;

receiving updated information in a predetermined format, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module; and

updating the sales-related database to store the received updated information.

24. (Amended) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a process for integrating one or more updates relating to administration of sales agents, brokers, distributors or dealers into a sales-related database over a network, wherein the integrating process comprises the steps of:

receiving an access request;

determining if the access request is valid;

receiving updated information if the access request is valid, the updated information being provided by a user interacting with an administrative tool having at least one of a login module, a report builder module, a broker operations module, a database access module, and a file upload module;

verifying the received updated information; and

replicating the sales-related database.

**RESPONSE**

The application has been amended in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2002. The amended claims overcome the rejection of claims 1-24 based on the applied references. No new matter has been added.

Status of the Pending Claims

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,758,338 to Faloutsos et al. (the "Faloutsos" patent).

Claims 4-5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Faloutsos in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,525 to Johnson et al. (the "Johnson" patent).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Faloutsos in view of Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,893,904 to Harris et al. (the "Harris" patent).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Faloutsos in view of Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,988 to Kappel (the "Kappel" patent).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,012,066 to Discount et al. (the "Discount" patent) in view of Faloutsos.

Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Discount in view of Faloutsos and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,440 to O'Neil et al. (the "O'Neil" patent).

Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Discount in view of Faloutsos and further in view O'Neil and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,202 to Raveis (the "Raveis" patent).